RP

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MAJOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AT FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD.

The largest single project ever undertaken at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, by the Baltimore District Engineer is a mammoth Department of Defense building which is scheduled for completion in November. Approximately one-fourth (1,400,000 square feet of floor space) the size of the Pentagon in Washington, D. C., the structure was started in August 1954, and will cost nearly $23 million.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Ribbs, Acting District Engineer at Baltimore and Resident Engineer at Fort Meade, will act as host for 300 guests who tour the Defense Department's new facility on the afternoon of June 16. The tour is under the sponsorship of the Baltimore Post, Society of American Military Engineers. Following their inspection, the visitors will attend a reception and dinner at the Fort Meade Officers' Club.

Among the principal exterior features of the building is its facing which is made up of more than 1100 precast-concrete sandwich panels with exposed colored aggregate. A royal green stone, quarried in New Jersey, and a Cardiff green stone from Maryland were used to give the panels their dressed-up appearance. The average panel is 120 square feet in area and consists of two layers of concrete separated by one and one-half inches of glass-fiber insulation. Each is mounted on angles bolted to the reinforced concrete frame of the building.

The three-story structure also contains the following items which give an indication of its engineering make-up:

85,000 cubic yards (170,000 tons) of concrete

88,500 square feet of window glass

20,000 fluorescent fixtures

5,200 tons of reinforcing steel

71 flights of stationary stairways

12 moving stairways (Escalators)

5,400 tons of refrigeration (air conditioning)

32,000 linear feet of movable partitions

1,200,000 square feet of resilient tile floor covering

The interior wall finish will be painted steel panels and will contain built-in underwindow fixtures for heating and cooling. Each floor consists of 10-inch reinforced concrete slab. An acoustical ceiling is hung two feet below the slab giving a ceiling height of nine and one-half feet.

In addition to this building, the Baltimore District Engineer has also supervised for the Department of Defense the construction of permanent barracks, bachelor officer quarters, a 40,000 KVA power substation, 2550 horse power heating plant and six million gallon-per-day sewage treatment plant, a supply building, parking areas, and roads and sidewalks - all at Fort Meade. The total cost for the Department of Defense facilities is estimated at approximately $35 million.

The resident engineer's job begins before the first shovelful of earth is turned. After he receives the plans and specifications for a project, he compiles his pre-construction data and establishes a base line and elevation reference point at which the contractor starts his work. Next, he meets with the contractor to discuss the Government's policies and procedures for a particular job.

While actual construction progresses, the resident engineer's office maintains a continuing check on the quality and quantity of the work. He gives detailed supervision to each construction feature (nails, lumber, sand, etc.). It is his job to insure that the qulity of materials meets the specifications and samples.

His responsibility for the administration of the contract includes: 1. Payments to the contractor based on the percentage of the completed work; 2. Adherence to safety requirements; 3. Changes in the plans and specifications after the work has begun; and 4. Negotiating with the contractor on a reasonable price to compensate for these changes.

During the course of construction, the resident engineer also acts as the go-between for the using agency and the contractor. He is called upon to resolve construction problems as they arise. When the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the resident engineer, the facility is turned over to the user.

In accomplishing his mission the resident engineer at Fort Meade presently has a staff of two Army engineers and 38 civilian employees with engineering, inspection, and clerical duties.

During the past four and one-half years, the Fort Meade Resident Engineer has been responsible for nearly $12 million worth of new construction on the post in addition to the massive Department of Defense facilities described above. A partial list of these projects follows:

FACILITY	COST	COMPLETION DATE
Meat Cutting Plant	$ 182,088.00	May 1953
Guard House	490,424.00	February 1954

FACILITY	COST	COMPLETION DATE
25-man BOQ	$ 358,713.00	April 1954
Heating Plant	690,037.00	May 1954
Motor Repair Shops	187,674.00	August 1954
Battalion Headquarters	103,435.00	August 1954
Telephone Exchange	160,000.00	September 1954
225-man Barracks	4,843,612.00	December 1954
Hardstand	142,553.00	December 1956
Enlisted Men's Service Club	513,950.00	April 1957
Signal Corps Engineer Lab.	2,700,000.00	March 1957
Post Exchange	395,560.00	March 1957
Motor Repair Shop	96,465.00	June 1957 (est.)
Battalion Classrooms	230,270.00	July 1957 (est.)
Battalion Dispensary	117,527.00	July 1957 (est.)

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